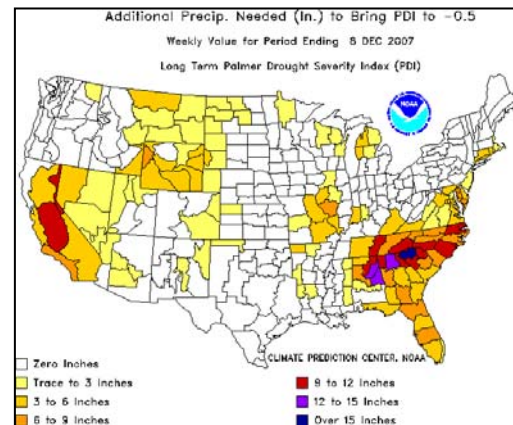
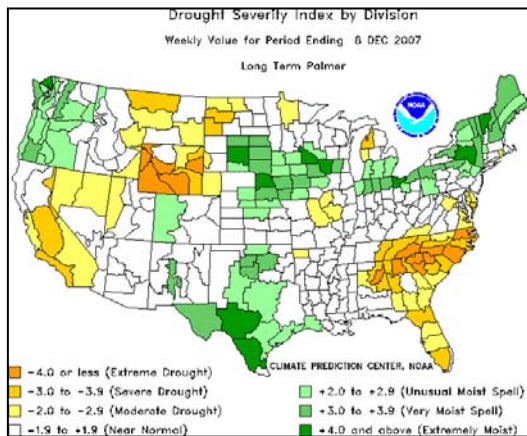


NH Drought Historical Events

Droughts have been recurring through the past centuries. Normal precipitation for New Hampshire averages 40 inches per year. During 2001 and 2002 New Hampshire experienced its most recent drought. This drought was the 3rd worst on record, exceeded only by the droughts of 1965-1966 and 1941-1942. The maps below, reprinted from a NOAA website, represent the Long Term Palmer conditions for the country in early August of 2002. The map on the left represents the Drought Severity Index, which shows the northern portion of New Hampshire near normal while the southern portion of New Hampshire is still in the moderate drought status. The map on the right represents the additional precipitation needed in a one week period to bring the index back to normal.



Hydrological drought is evidenced by extended periods of negative departures. Four droughts of significant extent and duration were evident in the 20th century as noted below. The drought of 1929-1936 coincided with severe drought conditions in large areas of the central and eastern United States. The most severe drought recorded in New Hampshire occurred from 1960 to 1969. This drought encompassed most of the northeastern United States.

Historically, droughts in New Hampshire have had limited effect because of the plentiful water resources and sparse population. Since 1960 the population has more than doubled, which has increased demand for the State's water resources. Further droughts may have considerable affect on the State's densely populated areas along the seacoast and in the south-central area.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DROUGHT HISTORY

Dates	Area Affected	Recurrence Interval Yrs	Remarks
1929-1936	Statewide	10 to > 25	Regional
1939-1944	Statewide	10 to > 25	Severe in southeast and moderate elsewhere
1947-1950	Statewide	10 to 25	Moderate
1960-1969	Statewide	> 25	Regional longest recorded continuous spell of less than normal precipitation
2001-2002	Statewide	Not yet determined	Third worst drought on record, exceeded only by the drought of 1956-1966 and 1941-1942